



Kristin Marie Ritter

MAY 28, 1980 - SEP 6, 2020



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Kristin Marie Ritter, age 40, passed away after a courageous battle with breast cancer on September 6, 2020, surrounded by her family.

Born May 28, 1980 to her adoring parents Gina (Minkus) Drapala and the late Nicholas Drapala, Kristin was the loving wife of not enough years to the extraordinarily lucky but heartbroken Jason K. Ritter, and a devoted mother to three beautiful and sweet daughters: Hayley, Sophie, and Emmy.

Family mattered most to Kristin, and she cherished her relationships as the beloved sister of Michelle (Phil) Brusco; granddaughter of Antoinette Minkus; great niece of Clara Wasylik and Anna Ritter; niece of David (Kathy) Drapala, Karen (Wayne) Dilla, the late Pam Minkus, and Yvonne (Bruce) Thompson; aunt to Mason and Mia Brusco, Rick and CB Ritter, Cooper and Adalyn Ritter, and Jacob McKay; cousins with Tyler Thompson, Lauren (Joe) Burfitt, and Julie (Brian) Paturzo; daughter-in-law to Georgene (Zerishnek) Ritter and the late Eugene Ritter; and sister-in-law to Gene (Tonia) Ritter, Eric (Autumn) Ritter, Matthew Ritter, and Amanda (Danny) McKay.

Passing away after a fierce battle with cancer, Kristin impressed everyone with her grit as she dealt with circumstances that were not fair and suffering that was too much. She often stated the reason she continued to fight her disease with such intensity was because she wanted to remain here for her family, and because she wanted to give back and make the journey through breast cancer easier for those behind her. She was remarkable in that way, and her absence in the world is to our collective detriment.

Kristin most relished her role as a mother. She loved watching Hayley grow into a strong, beautiful young woman who was impossibly able to fill the void in the household caused by her cancer, ranging from mundane acts like housekeeping to more consequential acts like passing along family traditions. Kristin also loved laying the foundation for what matters in life to both Sophie and Emmy. As a corollary of her love for her children, she contributed in numerous ways



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to her community of South Fayette, where she forged meaningful relationships with so many friends. She will be sorely missed.

Owing to the pandemic and space restrictions, a private viewing for family will take place at Jefferson Memorial Funeral Home, 301 Curry Hollow Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15236 on Thursday, September 10, 2020, from 1-4 p.m., with services and burial to be held on Friday, September 11, 2020, at 12:00 p.m. Our hope is to arrange a memorial or celebration of life service at a later date for her many friends and others impacted by her cancer story.



Tribute Wall

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TS

Tribute Store posted:

Thank you for your dedication to our education. We are continually thinking of you and your family.

October 5 at 12:19 PM

KT

Kate Tee posted:

We just found out about Kristin.... our hearts break for your loss of your beautiful daughter, granddaughter, sister, mother, niece, aunt.... you are all in our thoughts and prayers as you grieve. May God keep you in his gentle embrace. John and Kate Tkach

September 16 at 12:46 PM

DK

Duquesne Kde posted:

We send our deepest sympathies and our loving thoughts to you and your family.

September 15 at 7:09 AM

AS

Arlene Shepler posted:

GINA AND FAMILY, SO VERY SORRY FOR THE LOSS OF YOUR BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER. I AM THINKING OF YOU ALL AND PRAYING EVEN HARDER.I PRAY THAT OUR LORD SURROUNDS YOU AND YOURS WITH HIS LOVE AND PEACE. COUSIN ARLE NE SHEPLER. 🙏😭😭

September 11 at 7:52 PM

TS

Tribute Store posted:

With deepest sympathy Chris Beringer

September 11 at 11:37 AM

VR

Virginia Riegner posted:

Jason, my deep sympathies on your loss. At The Nailery Gina showed me a pic of u and Kristin & told me how u met in a Jury room, & u came for a job at DU (I had to like u since I was a 1971 grad from DU) I was so happy for u both, and so shocked now at your losing such a young wife & mother. I trust DU and Gina will be a great help in the days ahead for you and the kids . Virginia Riegner

September 10 at 6:47 PM



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DM

Diane Milanak posted:

May your sweet memories bring you peace and comfort in the days ahead.

September 10 at 3:17 PM

WF

With Heartfelt Condolences, South Fayette Pta posted:

We are thinking of you and wishing for peace. We have planted a tree for each of the girls in appreciation for all Kristin did for South Fayette PTA.

September 10 at 2:35 PM

MA

Maggie posted:

Jason sorry to hear about Kristin and her long struggle with cancer. She was always in my prayers
Maggie fanks

September 10 at 2:02 PM

GP

Gemma Pizzuto posted:

I knew Kristen ever since she was 5 years old at St Albert the Great school. Through girl scouts, sleepovers and school parties (I was homeroom mother with Gina) I watched her grow into a lovely, caring woman. She was a warrior. My sympathies are with all who knew her, especially her family. My heart breaks for you all. Kristen is gone, but never forgotten. Her memory will live on through her beautiful girls. ♥

September 10 at 5:05 AM

TS

Tribute Store posted:

Wishing you peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in your hearts.

September 9 at 2:14 PM

AN

X posted:

With deepest sympathy, Sandy Van Stedum, friend and founder of \"Pink Ribbons - we are more than ribbons\" a breast cancer support group

September 9 at 1:58 PM



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SV

Sandy Vanstedum posted:

You will be missed my friend. That whole army of pink sisters that prayed for you, is now praying your family through - many tears were shed yesterday, in my FB group, (Pink Ribbons - we are more than ribbons), we lit a candle for you in our homes, we took pictures of the candles and we posted them on the group site with our prayers for you; Cathy even made a lovely video of her candle with a prayer I know you must of heard it, it was so lovely heaven must have cheered.....we never met in person, our paths crossed in private support groups on FB...but this breast cancer, while it robs us of so much, it is the reason that so many sisterhoods are formed, so many women coming together, because her fight, was our fight too and none of us wants to loose a single one...to her friends and family, I just want you to know that there has been an army of pink sisters out there keeping your Kristin in their prayers every single day; and we know God hears all our prayers! Still a cure was not meant to be for her, and our hearts break...I have been encouraged by Kristin, I am a 5 year survivor and I have met hundreds of women along this way...I have seen the faces of fighters and I have come to know them...I just want to say that Kristin had a kindness to her fight, an optimism that couldn't be overlooked...when you are on FB and not in person, you can miss so much about the real person,but there wasn't anything to miss about Kristin because her spirit of kindness and compassion and... well a pure joy in her...it just came through her...I will miss her very much...and I know many many women grieving her loss with you - Thank you all for being a family that supported her completely, it was very clear that she truly loved you all and fought her hardest because of you - there is nothing better than to have a reason, ... a family.... that you love so much you will fight your hardest for....I know she did just that....may God bless you all...my sympathies and condolences, and those extended from so many others, to her husband, daughters, family and friends, May God make a way to give you peace.

September 9 at 12:08 PM

TS

Tribute Store posted:

Please accept our most heartfelt sympathies for your loss... Our thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time.

September 9 at 12:08 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Kristin by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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